

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3893**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2025

**CULTIVATION OF BT COTTON**

3893. DR. GANAPATHY RAJKUMAR P:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that transgenic Bt cotton is being cultivated in the country and also reports of declining Bt cotton productivity in the country due to a newly emerging disease and Tobacco Streak Virus (TSV);
- (b) whether it is also true that there is demand for legal use of HTBt for commercial cultivation as demanded by cotton growers during a crop-specific meeting on cotton;
- (c) if so, the details thereof: and
- (d) the details of the decision taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on allowing another transgenic variety-HTBt-for commercial cultivation?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR)

(a): Bt. cotton is the only Genetically Modified (GM) crop approved in 2002 by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for commercial cultivation in the Country. A few incidences of Tobacco Streak Virus were reported in some cotton growing regions, however, there is no significant yield loss reported. The yield of cotton for the last three years is 443 kg/ha for 2022-23, 436 kg/ha for 2023-24 and 465 kg/ha (3<sup>rd</sup> Advance Estimate) in the year 2024-25.

(b) to (d): Seed Industry Associations and some farmers are demanding for release of HT. Bt. cotton. Developer of HTBt Cotton namely Bollgard II Roundup Ready Flex (BG-II RRF) has submitted the proposal to Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee for environmental release of HTBt Cotton.

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